

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9-11, 13 and 14 are pending. Claims 1, 4, 7 and 11, the only independent claims, have been amended. Claims 2, 5, 8 and 12 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 11 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication 2001/0037266 (Schroeder). Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious from Schroeder in view of U.S. Patent 5,852,717 (Bhide et al.). Applicant submits that the amended independent claims are patentable over the cited art for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 is directed to a method of identifying a server from a client terminal having a browser, a memory device and a processor, the server and the client terminal being connectable with each other via a communications network. The method includes the steps of: a) transmitting a first request packet from the browser to the server; b) receiving the first request packet at the server and transmitting therefrom server specific information to the browser, indicating a server in which shared data file is maintained; c) receiving the server specific information at the browser and invoking the processor to hand over the received information to the processor; d) transmitting a second request packet from the processor to a server specified by the received server specific information; and e) receiving the second request packet at the specified server and transmitting therefrom the shared data file to the processor and storing the transmitted shared data file in the memory device. The method further includes the step of transmitting a third request packet from the processor to the specified server and transmitting therefrom differential data representing a difference between the shared data file maintained by the server and the shared data file stored in the memory device.

Schroeder relates to an image server system that provides access to image files located in an image file server. However, as was recognized in the Office Action, Schroeder

contains no teaching of the transmission of the third request packet from the processor to a specified server and the server transmitting differential data representing a difference between the shared data file maintained by the server and the shared data file stored in the memory device.

The position was taken in the Office Action that this feature is shown in Bhide et al., in particular at col. 8, lines 1-64. Applicant disagrees. Bhide et al. shows a system in which a timestamp of an object in a cache memory is compared with a timestamp maintained at a server. When a client desires an object for its cache, the client's browser sends a request to an intermediary agent requesting the object be sent if it has not been modified from the version in the cache. The agent decides, based on the difference in timestamps, whether the object in the cache is sufficiently current. If it is deemed to be sufficiently current, a not modified message is sent from the agent to the browser. This saves a round trip to the server.

On the other hand, if it is found by the agent that the cache is not sufficiently current, the agent requests a new copy of the object be sent to it. It is made clear at col. 9, lines 4-32 that when it is determined that the object is not sufficiently current, a new copy of the object, not just differential data, is sent from the server to the agent. There is no teaching or suggestion in Bhide et al. that only differential data is sent from the server. The differential discussed in the cited portion of Bhide is the difference between the timestamps, and does not relate to a difference in data.

For at least this reason, claim 1 is believed clearly patentable over Schroeder and Bhide et al. The other independent claims recite a substantially similar feature and are believed patentable for substantially the same reasons.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the

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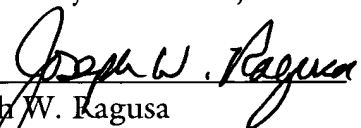
invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

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Respectfully submitted,

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